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Background

- History of art and politics:
 - •African American quilt making, Record, Novels (Patton)
 - •All cultivate collective action
- What is eco-art?
 - •Promotes ecocentrism, interconnectedness, and “revolutionary” sustainable ideals (Weintraub).
 - •Many critics/opinions about what is “true” eco-art



Andy Warhol, Flowers, 1964, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York



Nancy Holt, Sun Tunnel, 1970, Utah's Great Basin Desert



Agnes Denes, Wheatfield - A Confrontation, 1982, Battery Park (NYC), Manhattan

Purpose

- Gap in the literature:
 - **understanding the extent** of art's influence on political attitudes, opinions, and behaviors is underdeveloped

Plastic waste matters!

- Global Impacts
 - According to Our World Data, 8-30 million tons of plastic are currently sitting within our oceans (Ritchie).
 - Great Pacific Garbage Patch
 - block much needed sunlight, harms marine life

"In what ways can the exposure to modern eco-art influence environmental action on a college campus?"

Methods

- Previous research (2019)
 - Water pollution
 - 50% influenced either personal or political change
 - Not conclusive as to specific change
 - Current study
 - •Focus: Single Use Plastics
 - •Qualtrics survey
 - •Dependent: attitudes, opinions, and political action on campus
 - •Independent: modern installation eco-art
1. Collected plastic waste on campus
 - Measure waster and create my own installation eco-art
 2. The Elmhurst College Sustainability Committee and Student
 - Affairs sent out a blast email
 - 12days: 640 plastic cups/bottles
 - COVID19
 - No second collection period, no medium for art
 3. Survey was distributed online to 3,251 students.

Literature Review

- 1960's Environmental Art emerges
 - Counterculture
 - Eco-conscious artists and Warhol's *Flowers*
- Land Art
 - was not blatantly promoting a political agenda or a single environmental issue, but rather going against conventional ways
- Modern Eco-Art
 - •more controversy & direct focused around environmental issue
 - •Agnes Dene's *Wheatfield's*
 - •Installation art as a subcategory

Results

- Demographics:
 - 78% Female
 - 55% Liberal
 - 51% Elmhurst College Residents
 - Sample Size: 112

Main findings

Political Participation:

Join Sustainability Committee:

	Pre Art	Post Art
Yes	31%	41%
Perhaps	55%	49%
No	14%	10%
Total	100%	100%

Sign a campus petition to eliminate plastics:

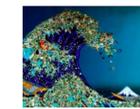
	Pre Art	Post Art
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After exposure to eco-art:

- **17% increase** in student who selected that they want to limit their plastic usage
- **39%** were much more concerned after viewing the plastic eco-art.

Artwork shown in survey:

- Modern Installation Eco-Art



Discussion

- Sample size was low due to COVID19
 - Lack of campus-based communication
- Cultivating change around environmental issues requires collective actions around individual choices
- Recycling discrepancy with past campus recycling
 - Voluntary responses

Conclusions

- Hypothesis 1:** Exposure to modern installation eco-art, will positively impact political attitudes toward single-issue plastics use.
- Hypothesis 2:** Exposure to eco-art will inspire collective action.
- Seeing an increase in positive responses for both joining a committee and signing a petition to eliminate single use plastics after art was shown.
 - Encouraging results for potential campus movement

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